

**SEPARATE STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL**

Re: Modification of Subpart G, Section 0.701 of the Commission's Rules

This Commission, through efforts such as the Local & State Government Advisory Committee, is committed to building and strengthening our relationships with state, local, and tribal governments. The reforms adopted here are built on six years of valuable experience gained with the LSGAC and enable the newly created Committee to continue operating with the informality and flexibility that have proven so effective.

Our revised membership criteria will ensure greater balance and diversity of representation and access to a wide range of viewpoints and expertise. In particular, the new Committee will gain stronger representation in three areas. First, the addition of homeland security expertise will facilitate the Commission's work with the national security and public safety communities. Second, increased tribal representation will enhance the Commission's opportunities to hear directly from tribal government leaders and better inform the Commission's Indian Telecommunications Initiative. Finally, enhanced rural representation will assist with the Commission's Universal Service efforts, and provide information and guidance on other matters unique to the provision of telecommunications services in rural areas.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the present Committee's members for their efforts to assure that the LSGAC provided important information and guidance to the Commission on telecommunications issues affecting local, state, and tribal interests. LSGAC service represents a significant investment of time and resources, and I salute the leadership and dedication that these members have demonstrated during the past six years.